

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-10. (Canceled).

11. (New) A steering device for a vehicle having a pair of wheels which can be steered freely as a function of the current driving state of the vehicle or whose steered position can be locked by an electronically actuatable locking device, the steering device comprising:

an electronic control device;

sensors connected to the electronic control device to monitor current driving state values;

wherein:

the electronic control device actuates the locking device when a minimum velocity of the vehicle is exceeded, so that a steered position of the pair of wheels is locked,

driving state values which characterize critical driving situations are stored in the electronic control device,

the steered position of the pair of wheels is locked in critical driving situations, and

after a critical driving situation, the locking device does not release the pair of wheels again until predefined critical driving state values are undershot at least for a predefined period of time.

12. (New) The steering device of claim 11, wherein combinations of the driving state values which characterize the critical driving situations are stored in the electronic control device.

13. (New) The steering device of claim 11, wherein the critical driving situations are assumed to be present when the vehicle tends to oversteer.

14. (New) The steering device of claim 11, wherein the period of time is 3 seconds to 5 seconds.

15. (New) The steering device of claim 11, wherein the electronic control device is integrated into an electronic driving stability system, and an activation of the locking device occurs at a same time as an engine torque intervention or braking intervention which is controlled by the electronic driving stability system.

16. (New) The steering device of claim 11, wherein each wheel of the pair of wheels are arranged on opposite sides of the vehicle, and each wheel of the pair of wheels includes a steering lever, which are articulatedly connected to one another by a track rod.

17. (New) The steering device of claim 16, wherein the locking device acts on one of the two steering levers.

18. (New) The steering device of claim 16, wherein one of the two steering levers includes a locking lever which lengthens the steering lever, and the locking device acts on the locking lever.

19. (New) The steering device of claim 11, wherein the locking device is actuatable pneumatically.

20. (New) The steering device of claim 11, wherein the locking device is actuatable hydraulically.